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# Royal Geographical Society.

1839.

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AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 27, 1839,

The following Report from the Council was read :—

The Council has again to congratulate the Society upon the steady increase in the number of its Members, affording a gratifying proof, it is willing to believe, of the interest felt by the public in the advancement of geographical science.

Since our last anniversary, sixty-three new Members have been elected ; twelve vacancies by death and resignation have occurred ; and the Society now consists of 651 Members, besides sixty Foreign Honorary and Corresponding Members.

During the past year we have to lament the loss of a distinguished Foreign Honorary Member, the Baron de Hamelin, an Admiral in the French navy, well known as having been one of the French expedition to the coasts of Australia, about the beginning of this century ; and, more lately, as having presided over the Dépôt de la Marine de France, and to whose liberality we are indebted for some of the most costly and valuable works which adorn our library.

*Finances.*—The state of the finances of the Society, the details of which are annexed, continues satisfactory. The expenditure for the past year has been considerable, in consequence of 225*l.* having been paid towards the South African expedition (now terminated), and 150*l.* towards the expedition to Kurdistán ; yet it is gratifying to add, that these heavy demands have been paid out of the current income of the Society, leaving untouched the capital of 4800*l.* invested in the funds—that stock representing the

amount of the compositions of 275 compounding members now living.

*Publications.*—The Geographical Journal for 1838 consists of three Parts—the first published in February, the second in May, and the third in November; of Vol. IX., the first Part has also been published, and the second Part is now laid upon the table.

It is gratifying to add that not less than 70 papers on subjects connected with geography have been contributed to the Society since our last anniversary.

The first edition of Part II. Vol. III. of the Journal having been exhausted, while the demand for it still continues both by the public at large, and by new Members desirous of obtaining complete sets of the Transactions, the Council has ordered it to be reprinted; and directed that in future the first edition of the Journal be augmented from 1250 to 1500 copies, in order to meet the increased demand on the part of the public.

*Her Majesty's Donation.*—Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to continue to the Society (as announced at the late anniversary) the annual donation of fifty guineas, as originally granted by her Majesty's royal predecessor for the promotion of geographical science and discovery, the Council have resolved that this sum should be converted into two gold medals of exactly equal value, to be designated the Founder's Medal and the Patron's Medal, respectively.

Acting upon this resolution, the Council has awarded the Founder's Medal for the year 1838 to Mr. George Simpson, of the Hudson's Bay Company's service, who, in conjunction with, and under the immediate orders of, Mr. P. W. Dease, traced the hitherto unexplored coast to the west between Return Reef and Point Barrow, in 1837; and during the past year has discovered 90 miles of coast eastward from Point Turnagain of Franklin, on the northern shore of America.

In making this award, the Council cannot refrain from expressing their admiration of the spirited and liberal conduct of Governor Pelly, and the Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company—so honourable to British commercial enterprise—under whose orders this service has been executed.

The Council has in like manner awarded the Patron's Medal to Dr. Edward Rüppell, of Frankfort, in testimony of the services he has rendered to geography by his travels and researches in Nubia, Kordofán, Arabia, and Abyssinia.

*Original Expeditions.*—Of the expeditions more immediately under the control of the Society, that of Mr. Schomburgk, into British Guayana, has now nearly completed its fourth year, and the detailed report of his ascent of the rivers Essequibo, Berbice, and Corentyn, has appeared in Vols. VI. and VII. of this Journal; during the two last seasons, which he has spent in the interior of the country, he has explored the source of the Essequibo, crossed the equator, and penetrated into  $0^{\circ} 12' \text{ S. lat.}$ ; returning thence to Pirará, he crossed the Brazilian frontier to Fort San Joaquim descended about 30 miles of the Rio Branco, and explored the Carumá mountains on its eastern bank. Returning again to Pirará, Mr. Schomburgk has travelled in a N.W. direction to the sources of the river Caruni, and to the mountains of Rorima, and at the date of his last letter, 20th Nov. 1838, was about to proceed to the westward to the head-waters of the Orinoco, with the intention of descending that river to Esmeralda, thence to cross over to the Padaviri, a tributary of the Amazons, and thus work his way back again to Demerara. Both Mr. Schomburgk and his party had suffered much from fever and climate, but his zeal in the cause of discovery appears unabated.

The objects of the expedition to Kurdistán, undertaken in conjunction with the Society for the promotion of Christian Knowledge, were announced last year, and the instructions given to the travellers are appended to this Report. Quitting England in June last, Mr. Ainsworth made a series of observations for magnetic dip and intensity, in his way across the continent of Europe to Constantinople; there, joining Mr. Rasám, the party left that city on 20th September, and, taking the road by Izmid, Erekli, Bóí-ábád, and ascending the course of the Halys, reached Angora in the beginning of December, 1838. A detailed report of this journey is printed in the volume now laid on the table.

*Foreign and Colonial Correspondence.*—Five Foreign Corresponding Members have been added to the list since our last anni-

versary—namely, Colonel Skribaneck, Director of the Dépôt Topographique at Vienna; Colonel Oberreit, Chief of that at Dresden; Professor C. C. Rafn, Secretary to the Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen; Dr. Von Schlieben, head of the Statistical Society of Saxony; and Don Eduardo Carasco, Hydrographer in Peru—and the Council have great pleasure in noticing the gradual increase of the Foreign and Colonial Correspondence of the Society.

*Library.*—A list of accessions made to the library, consisting of upwards of 400 volumes and 500 maps and charts, is printed with this Report. For many of these works the Society is indebted to the liberality of Foreign Academies; but more especially to the Dépôts de la Guerre et de la Marine in France; to the Academies of St. Petersburg, Berlin, Copenhagen, Lisbon, and Paris; and to the Dépôts Topographiques of Austria and Wurtemberg, for several valuable donations.

The insufficiency of the apartments at present occupied by the Society is a great and increasing evil. The endeavours which the House Committee have made during the last year to remedy this evil have been unremitting, and the Council regret to add, hitherto unsuccessful.

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# BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1838.

Dr.

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand, January 1st, 1838	30	18	11	House rent			110 0 0
Entrance of 65 Members at 3 <i>l</i> .	195	0	0	Salaries			300 0 0
Composition of 27 Members at 17 <i>l</i> .	459	0	0	Printing Journal, Vol. VII.			285 0 0
Subscription of 257 Members at 2 <i>l</i> .	514	2	0	Reprinting Journal, Vol. III. Part I.			24 0 0
Arrears paid up	50	0	0	Illustrations for Vol. VII.			170 14 6
Dividends on Stock (4800 <i>l</i> . reduced 3½)	168	0	0	————— for Reprint of Vol. III.			16 7 6
Royal Premium	52	10	0	Kurdistan Expedition			298 0 0
Journals sold in 1838	128	17	6	South African ditto			223 0 0
Christian Knowledge Society for Kurdistan Expedition	500	0	0	Guayana Expedition			5 5 0
				Royal Premium			52 10 0
				Books and Maps			64 5 8
				Collector			21 0 0
				Alteration in Die of Medal			10 0 0
				Stationery			11 15 4
				Firing and Lights			10 6 3
				Portage, Carriage of Parcels, &c.			15 18 0
				Attendance and Wages of Housekeeper			17 17 0
				Postage of Letters			18 1 0
				Expenses of Evening Meetings			16 13 6
				Insurance, Advertisements			4 10 0
				Furniture and Repairs			1 6 0
				Subscriptions returned			6 0 0
				Balance in hand, Dec. 31st, 1838			1,682 9 9
							415 18 8
							£2,098 8 5

The above Accounts have been compared by us with the corresponding vouchers, and found to be correct.—10th May, 1839.

(Signed) { JAMES MEEK.  
{ FRANCIS BECKFORD.

(Signed) JOHN BIDDULPH, Treasurer.

# ESTIMATE FOR 1839.

*Dr.*

*Cr.*

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand (1st January, 1839)	.	.	415 18 8	House rent	.	.	110 0 0
Probable Amount of Subscriptions, viz.	.	.		Salaries	.	.	300 0 0
Entrance of 60 Members	£180			Printing Journal Vol. VIII.	.	.	320 0 0
Composition of 25 ditto	425			Illustrations for Journal	.	.	150 0 0
Subscription of 250 ditto	500			Reprinting Journal, Vol. III., Part II.	.	.	42 0 0
	—		1,105 0 0	Illustrations for Reprint	.	.	20 0 0
Arrears likely to be recovered	.	.	100 0 0	Kurdistan Expedition	.	.	500 0 0
Dividends on Stock	.	.	168 0 0	Guayana Expedition	.	.	100 0 0
Sale of Journal	.	.	140 0 0	White Nile Expedition	.	.	50 0 0
Royal Premium	.	.	52 10 0	Books and Maps	.	.	100 0 0
				Office Expenses, including Firing, Lights, Refreshments at Meetings, Attendance, Postage, &c.	.	.	100 0 0
				Royal Premium	.	.	52 10 0
				Sinking Die of Patron's Medal	.	.	52 10 0
				Collector	.	.	21 0 0
							£1,918 0 0

(Signed)

JOHN WASHINGTON,  
*Secretary.*